GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1458
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
MALNUTRITION IN INDIA
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in case of malnutrition, India is treated at par with the countries like Afghanistan and Ethiopia at world forum;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check malnutrition;

(c) the details of the target set to check malnutrition by implementation of an ambitious scheme like Rural Health Mission by the Government; and

(d) the names of the States/ districts wherein the said scheme is under implementation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): As per the UNICEF's Report entitled 'The state of the World's children 2007 the percentage of under-fives suffering from undernutrition in India, Afganistan and Ethopia is as below

India 46 (NFHS III)
Afganistan 39
Ethopia 38

(b) Several measures have been taken by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the people.The various measures are Annexed

(c) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) one of the goal is universal access to public health services such as women's health, child health, water, sanitation & hygiene, immunization, and nutrition. Monthly Health and Nutrition days are organized at the village level to provide health and nutrition related education and services.

(d) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched on 12-4-05 and operationalised throughout the country with special focus on 18 states which includes 8 Empowered Action Group States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan), 8 North East States, Himachal Pradesh & Jammu and Kashmir.

Annexure

The measures to improve the nutritional status of population

Improving agricultural and horticultural produce.

Improving the purchasing power of the people though various income generating scheme

Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System.

Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.

A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government. The National Nutrition Mission has been set up.

Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) including supplementary nutrition.

National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid day meal Programme)

Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:

- Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of ANC, skilled care to Pregnant women, Post-partum care at community level.

- Immunization

- Integrated Management of neonatal and child hood illness and malnutrition

- Emphasis on Infant & Young Child Feeding

- Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic acid Supplementation for Preschool Children, pregnant and lactating women

National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP).